

DEPARTMENT OF
PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
ADDICTIVE AND MENTAL DISORDERS DIVISION



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
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February 27, 2008

Mr. George H. Corn, County Attorney
Ravalli County
205 Bedford Street, Suite C
Hamilton, MT 59840

Dear Mr. Corn:

I was recently copied on a series of e-mail messages that originated with a brief report by Karen Mahar titled "commits", dated February 2, 2008. In that e-mail, Ms. Mahar mentions that a Montana State Hospital (MSH) employee said that "all state funding is going to the communities, and MSH is being shorted funding for necessary services." Please be informed that there appears to be a misunderstanding. The Addictive and Mental Disorders Division has more than 600 FTE and, admittedly, we must find better ways of informing all staff regarding major initiatives.

While it is true that the division is working hard to develop new community services targeted at reducing the MSH census and improving community capacity to serve individuals in psychiatric crisis, the funds to purchase the new services have not come at the expense of the MSH. The budget allocated to the MSH by the legislature has not been reduced in any way. We anticipate the MSH will fully expend the roughly \$29 million operating budget requested and authorized.

I appreciate the opportunity to correct the misinformation. If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert L. Muller

Joyce De Cunzo,
Administrator

cc: Joan Miles, Director
Senator Rick Laible
Senator Jim Shockley
Representative Ron Stoker
Representative Ray Hawk
Representative Bob Lake
Ravalli County Commissioners
Chris Hoffman
Kathy McGowan
Leo Gallagher
Karen Mahar

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Ravalli County Commissioners

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